



# Bridge Program for Sexually Exploited Youth

Year One

Report to Seattle City Council

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# Our Mission

YouthCare builds confidence and self-sufficiency for homeless youth by providing a continuum of care that includes outreach, basic services, emergency shelter, housing, counseling, education, and employment training.



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# What we provide



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- **Engagement Services**

Street Outreach, drop in, and case management

- **Housing Programs**

Emergency, transitional, and community based housing

- **Educational Support**

Seattle Public Schools Interagency Academy High , GED preparation, life skills, health education, and college preparation

- **Workforce Readiness**

Job skills training, job placement, and paid internships

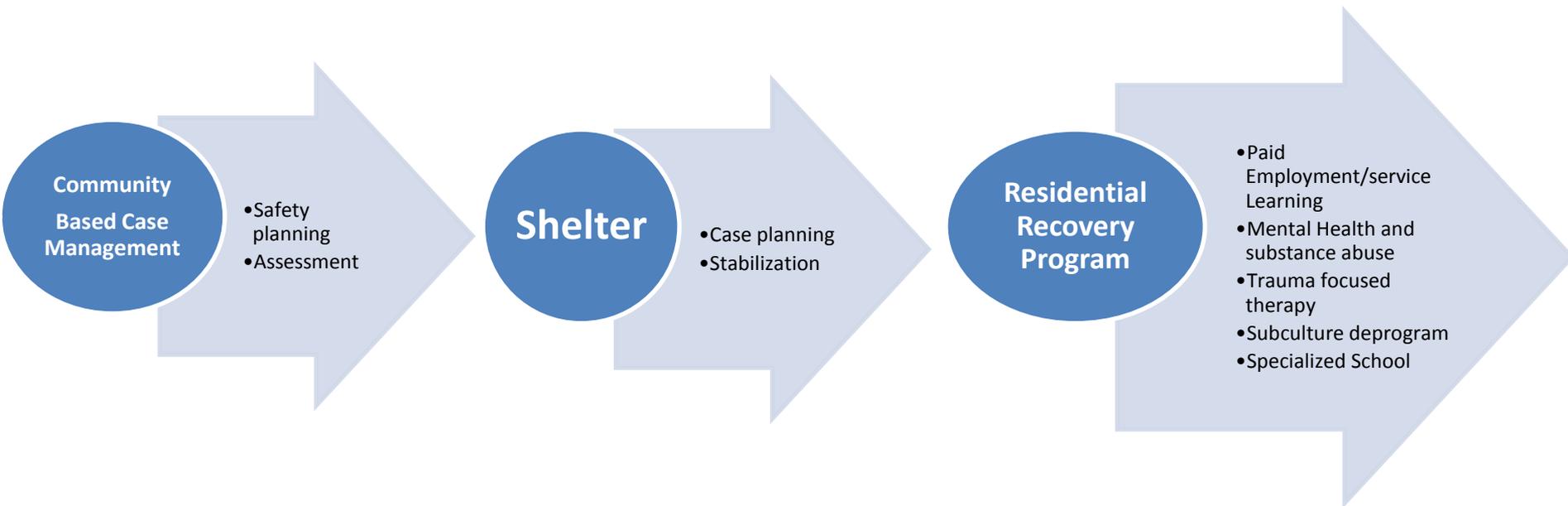
# Who we serve

- Runaway, homeless, and disconnected youth in Seattle-King County, WA
- Served over 4,000 youth in fiscal year 2010



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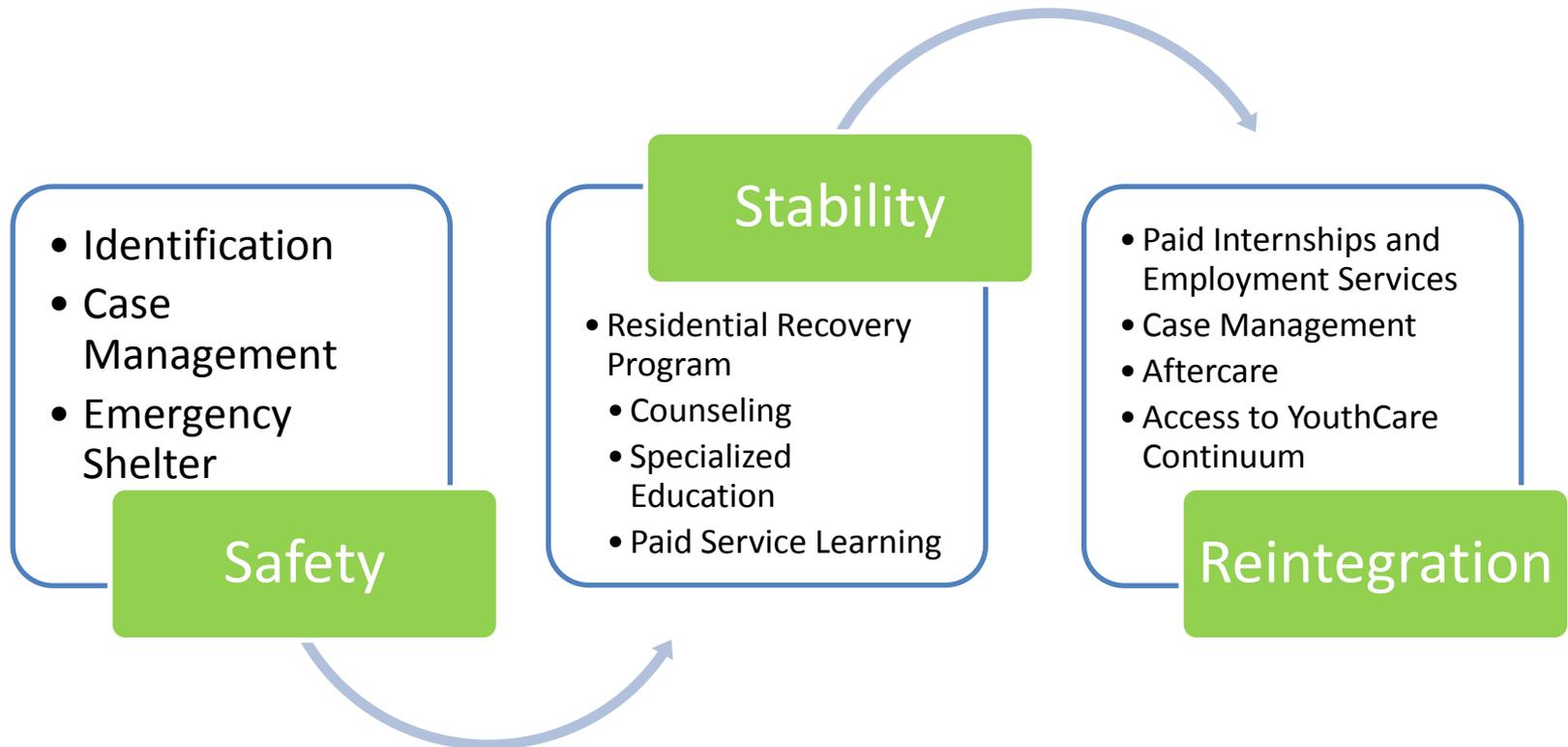
# Bridge Continuum



Community Systems Training

Advisory and Regional Response Committees

# Service Model

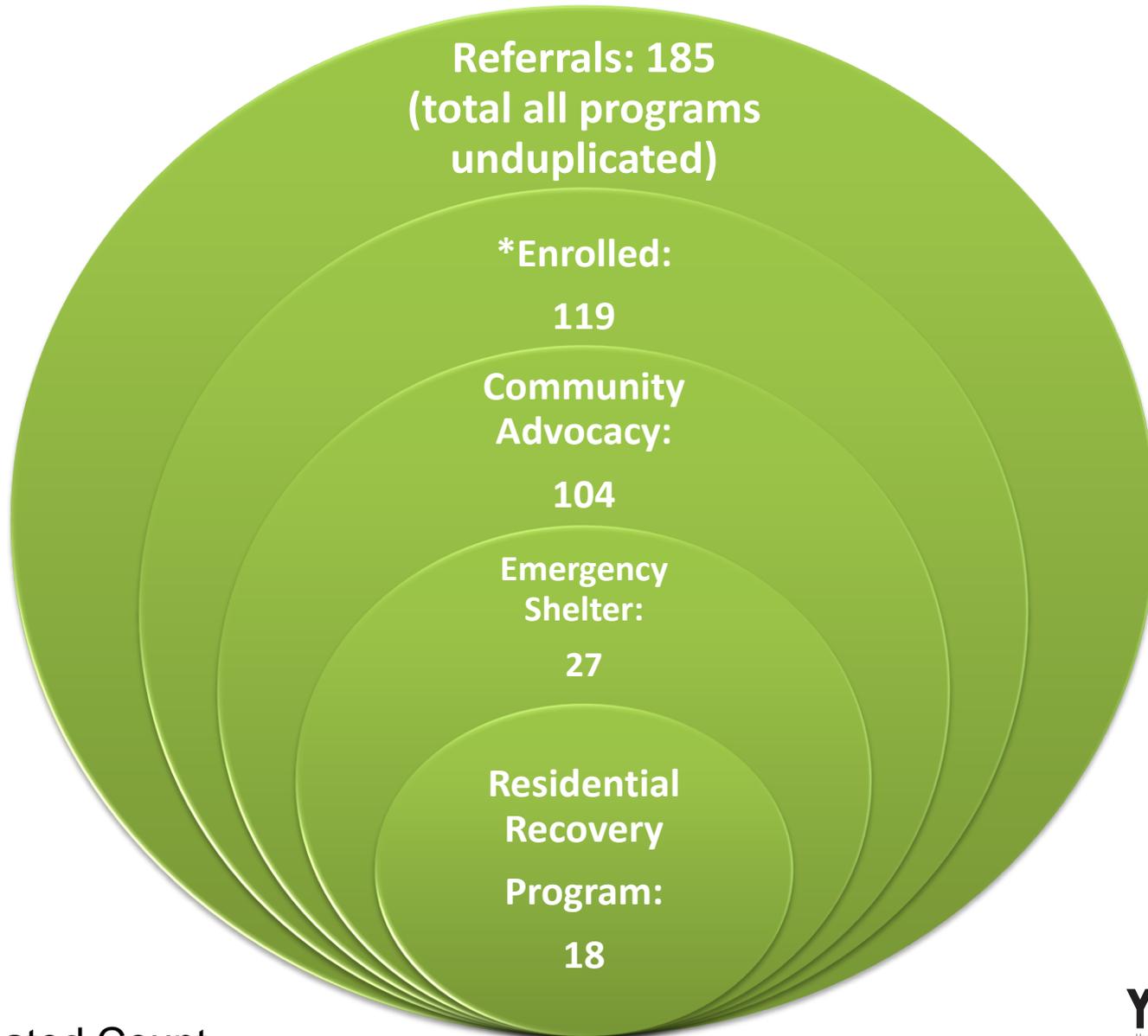


# Best Practices

- Evidenced Based Practice:
  - Program Model based on Stages of Change Theory
  - Program staff trained on and using Motivational Interviewing and incentive based programming
- Built relationship with key systems for referrals
- Addressing juvenile justice issues
- Training and public awareness

\*\* There is currently no evidenced based model for intervention with sexually exploited youth. While the Bridge program aligns with best practices for trauma and substance abuse the goal is to design, implement and test our model for effectiveness in order to contribute to practice and literature.

# Number of Youth Served in Bridge Continuum

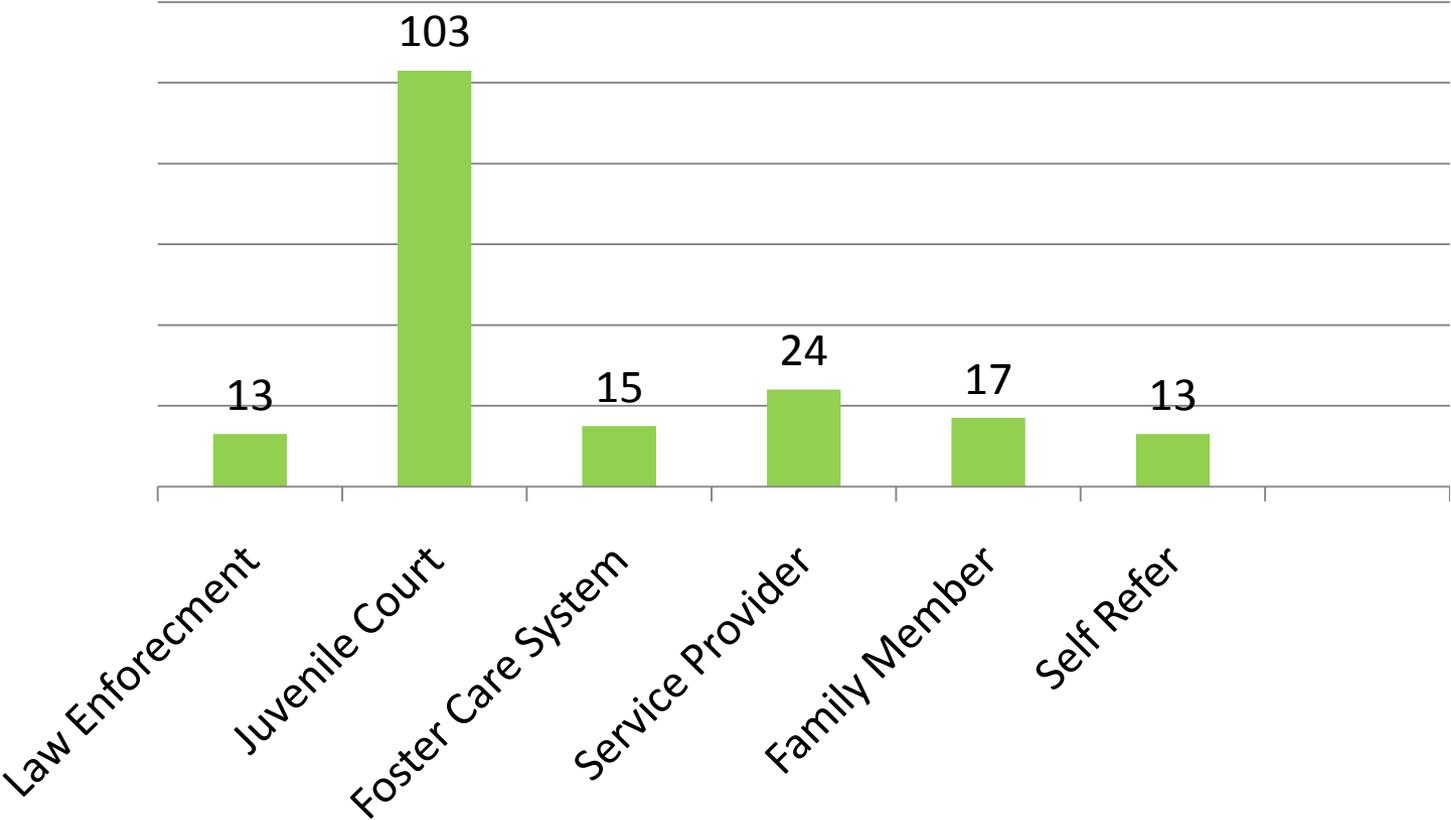


\* Unduplicated Count

# Total Referrals

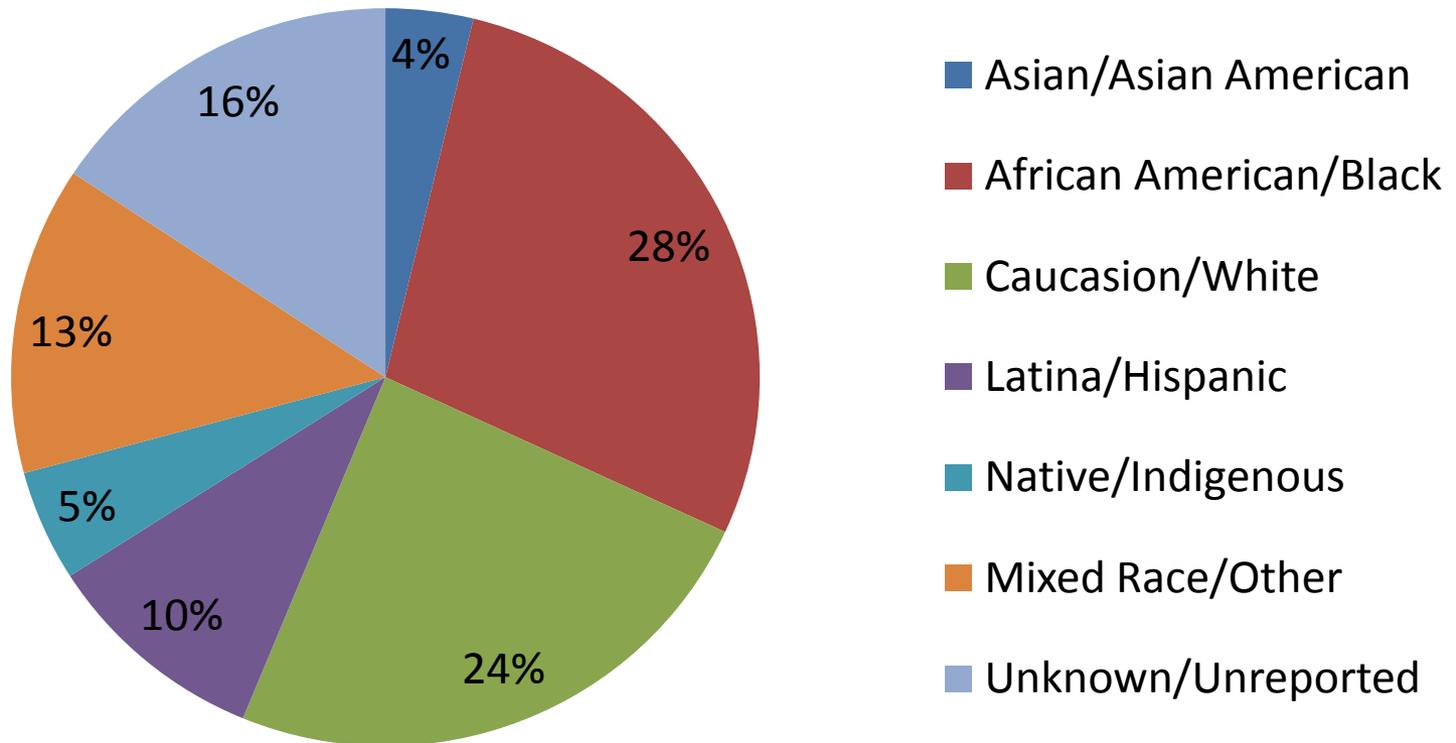
N=185

## Referral Source



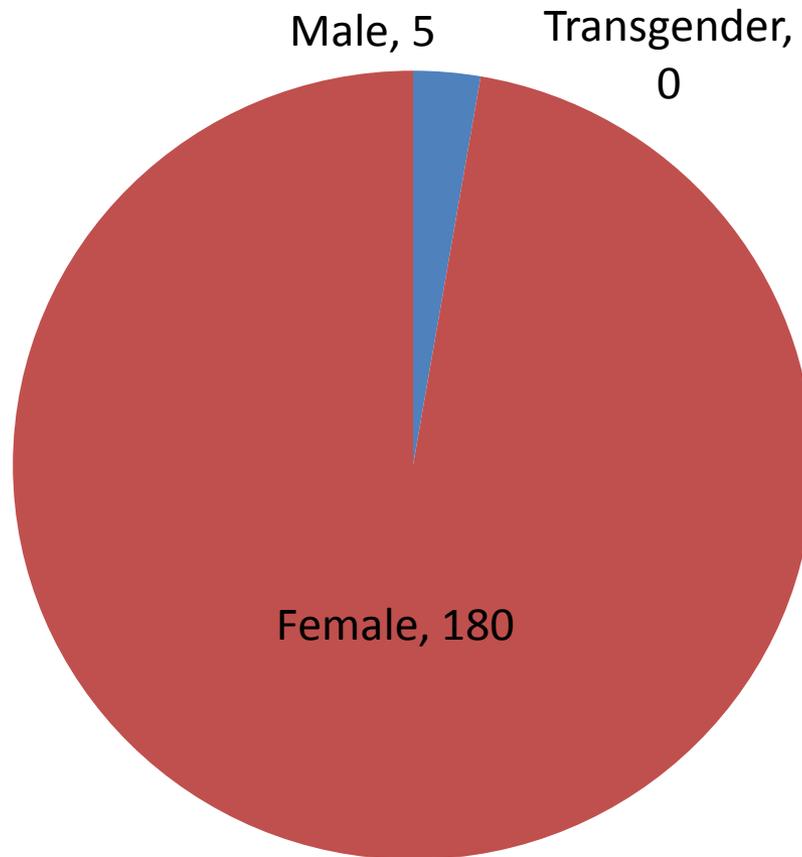
# Referral Ethnicity/Race

N=185



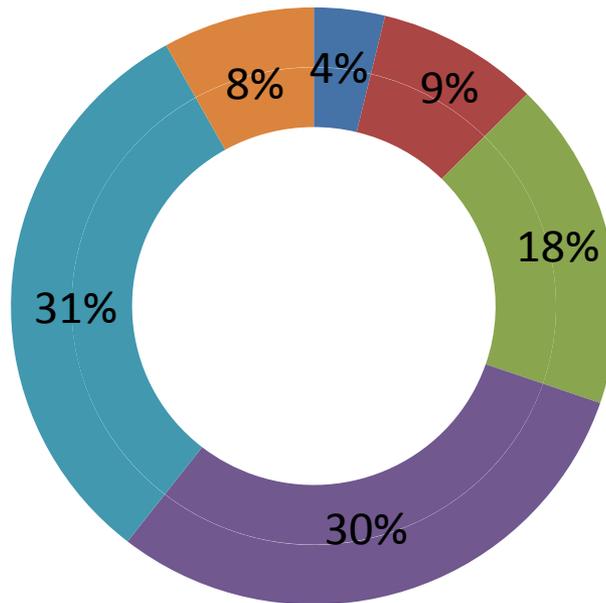
# Referral Gender

N=185



# Referral Age

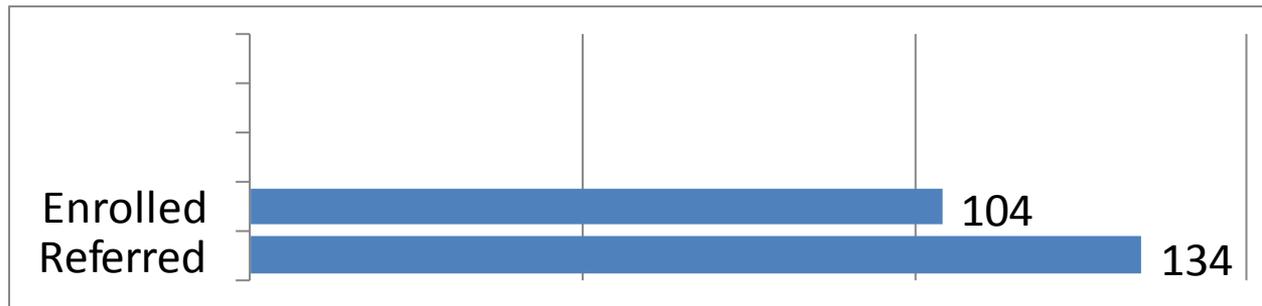
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- Under 13 years old
- 14 years old
- 15 years old
- 16 years old

# Community Case Management

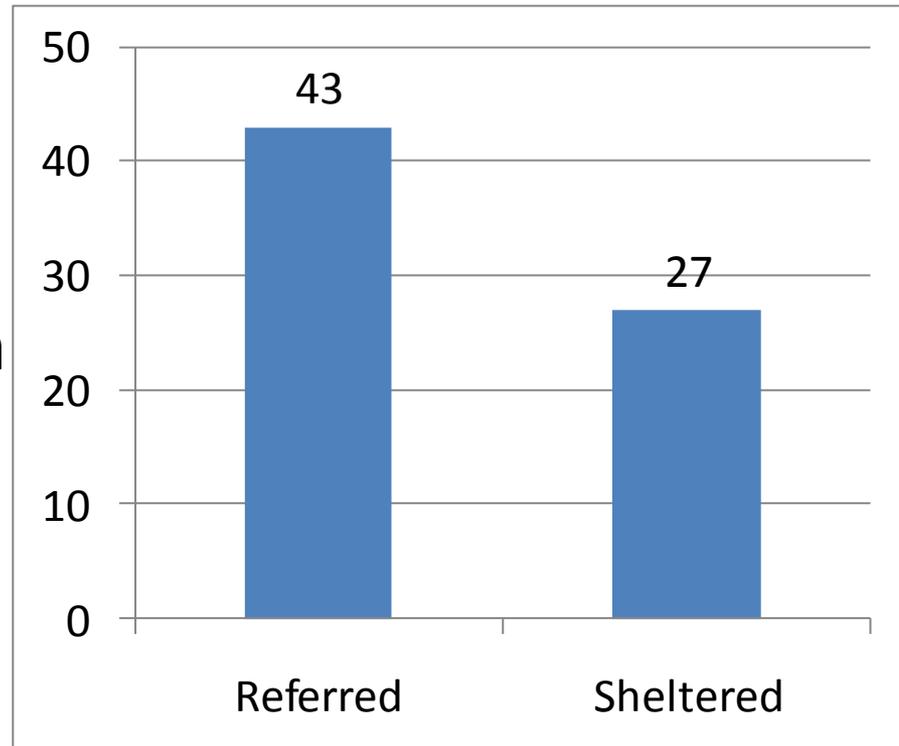
Connecting with Community Based Case Management is the first step for youth trying to leave a life of abuse and exploitation.



3 Case Managers provide mentorship, harm reduction counseling, basic needs, referrals and safety planning

# Emergency Shelter

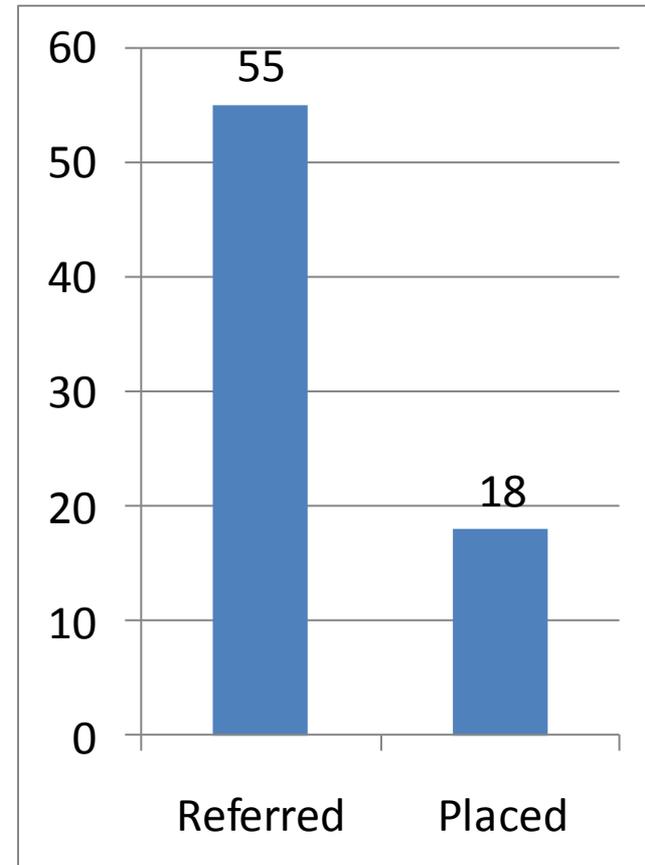
- 2 Dedicated beds in an Adolescent Shelter accessible
- 24 hours a day 7 days a week
- 10 staff



Shelter serves as an emergency placement, assessment phase and therapeutic respite for clients in recovery program

# Residential Recovery Program

- 6 bed confidential milieu in a caring, home environment with 12 staff
- Trauma focused therapy
- Substance abuse services
- Education
- Employment
- Legal support
- Positive Youth Development approach

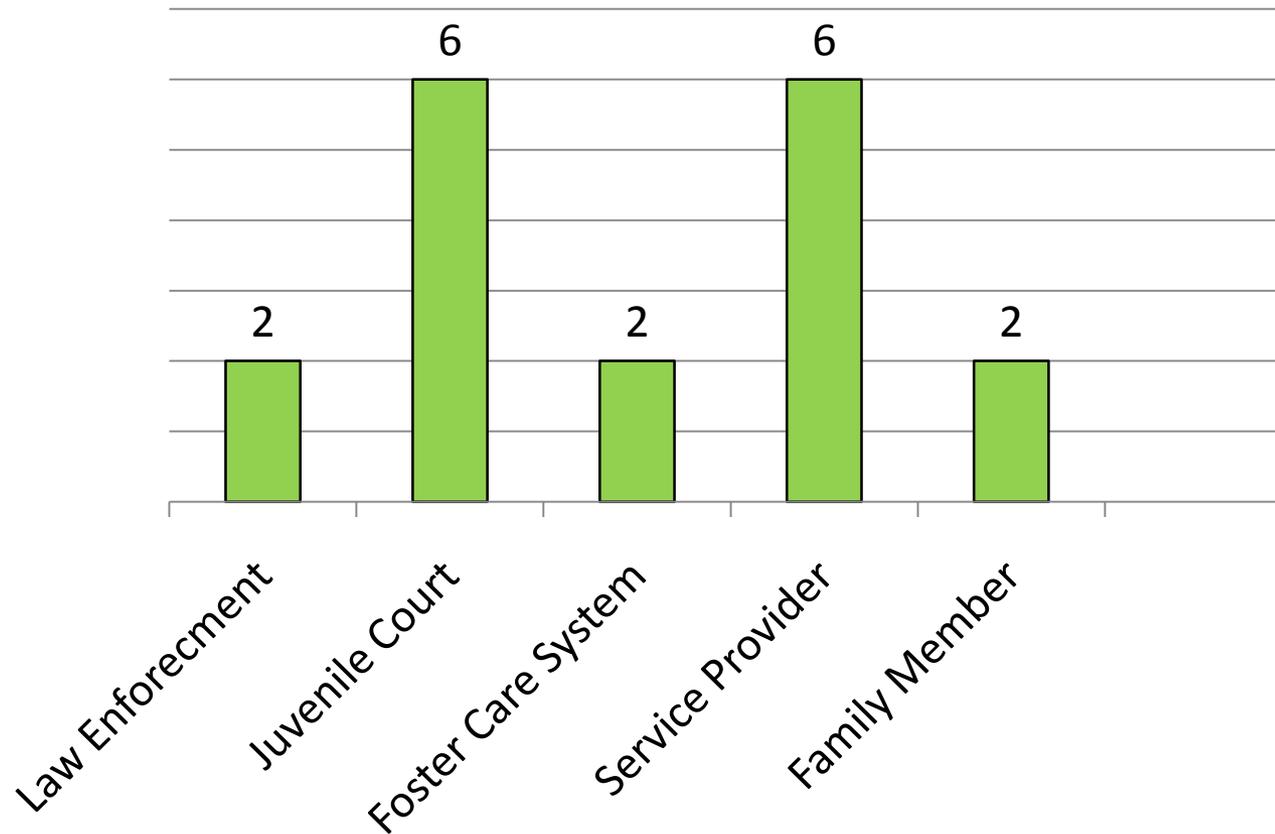


Youth work together and with experienced staff to resolve issues of trauma and exposure to prostitution sub-culture.

# Residential Recovery Program

N=18

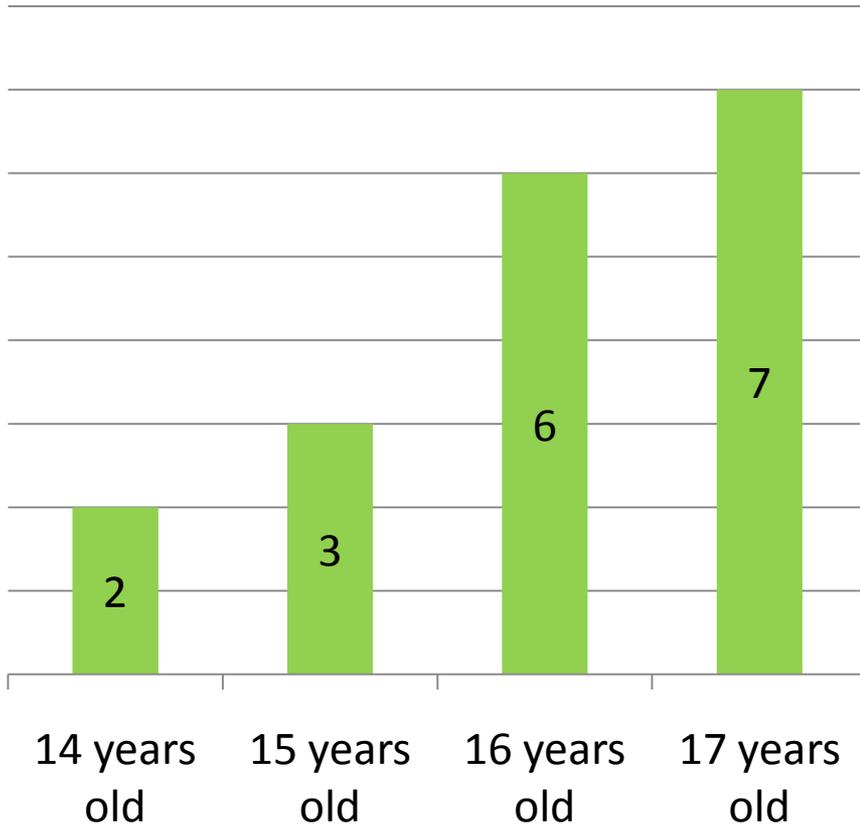
Referral Source



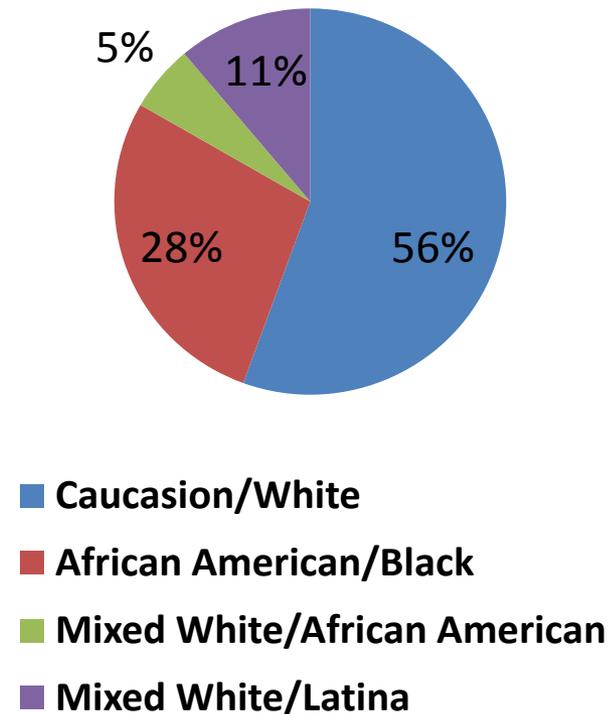
# Residential Recovery Program

N=18

Age



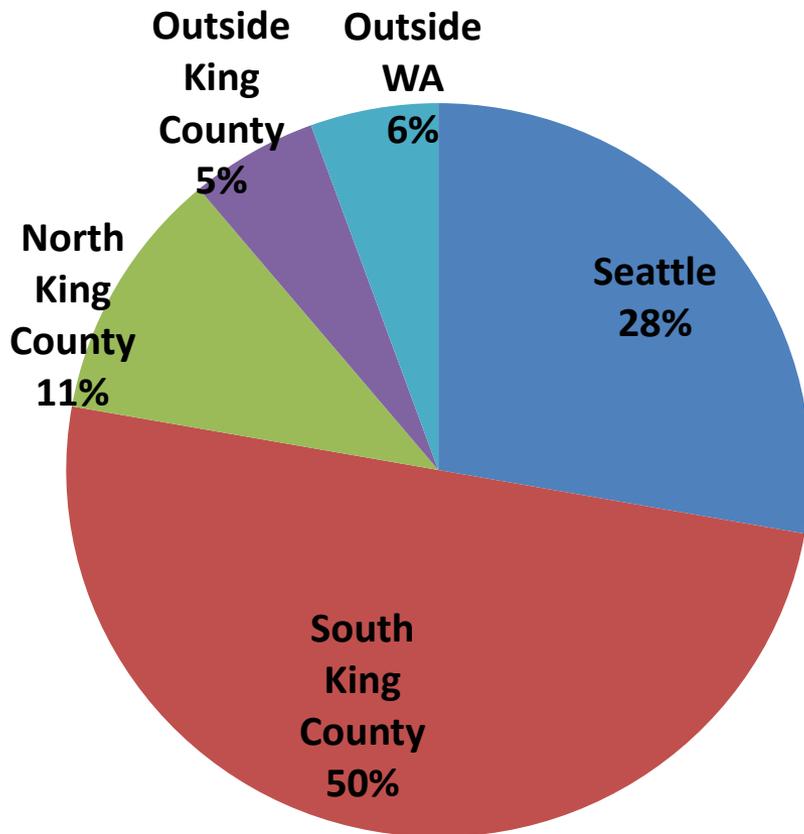
Race Ethnicity



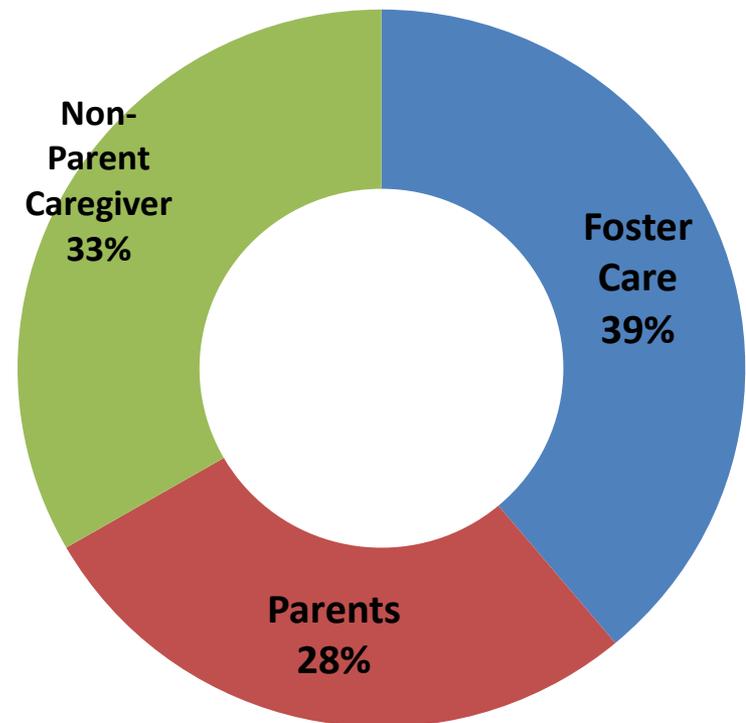
# Residential Recovery Program

N=18

## Geographic

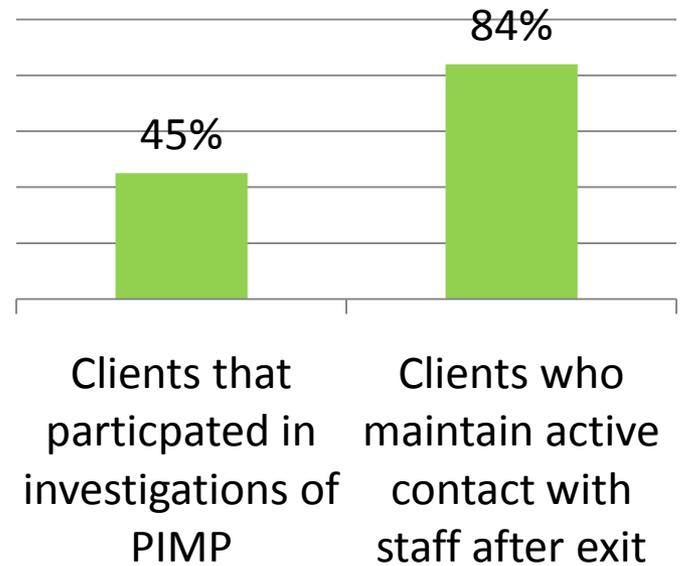
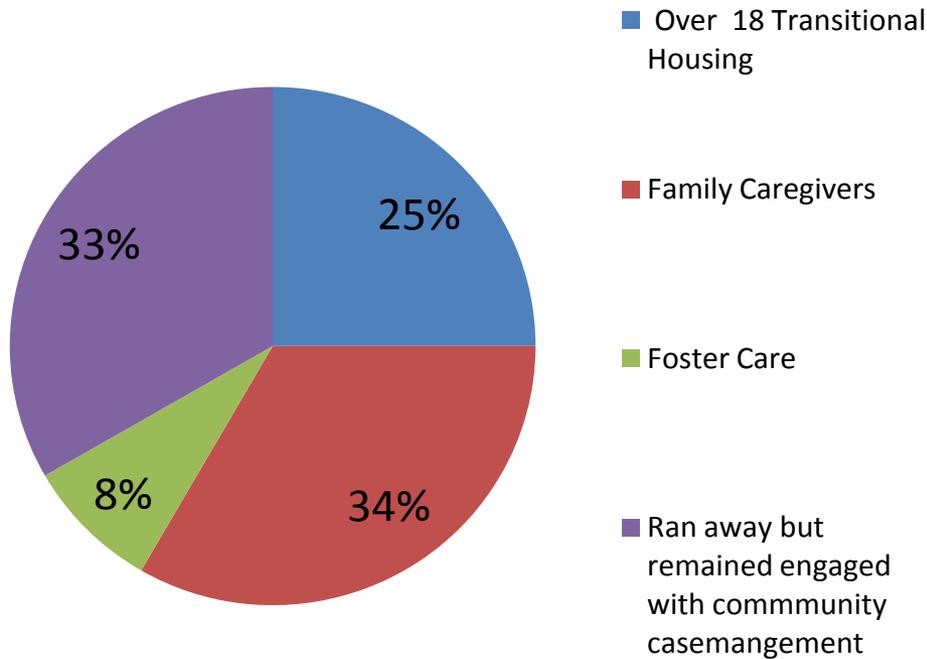


## Guardianship



# Impacts

## Placements



# Training for Services Providers and Community Members

**Since April, 2010 the Bridge Program has provided 165 hours of training and education to over 600 individuals across the State of Washington including:**

- Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
- Community Based Youth Service Providers
- Juvenile Probation
- Public Defenders Association
- Law Enforcement
- Sexual Assault Providers
- Seattle Public School Personnel
- Public Health Providers
- Faith-based groups and concerned community members
- Students from schools of Law, Social Work and Public Administration

# Program Successes

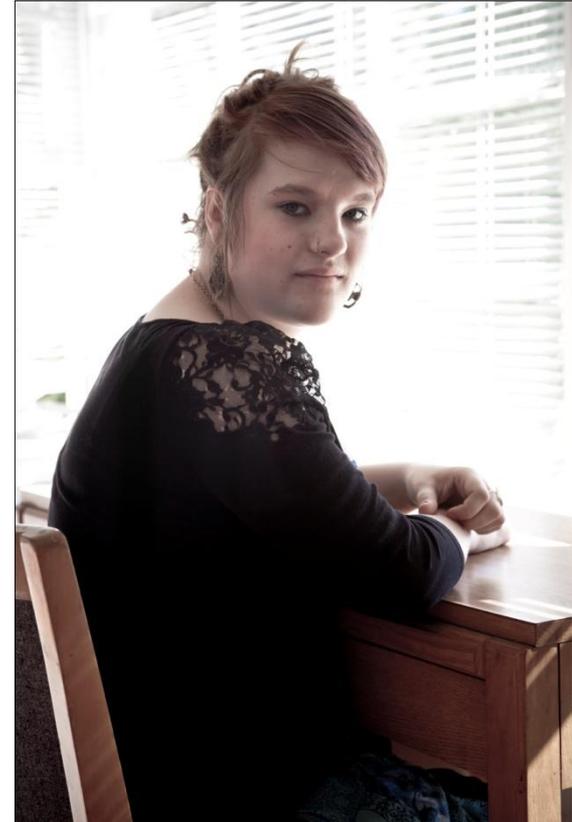
- Proven ability to identify, engage and serve sexually exploited youth
- Youth served are ethnically diverse
- The staff team is diverse
  - Survivors
  - Gender
  - Ethnicity
- Have developed specific program components to address: education, trauma, mental health, chemical dependency, and prostitution sub culture
- Reputation of Bridge Program among community members, stakeholders and the justice system



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# Challenges

- Anticipated increased demand for services due to visibility and targeted outreach
- Services for young adults ages 18-24
- Serving youth with acute Mental Health needs



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# Emerging Best Practices

- Comprehensive service model
- Transforming “girl competition” to “girl support”
  - Creating daily and weekly opportunities for youth to work together as a community as a way to re-frame the sense of competition developed prostitution sub-culture
- The importance of “earning”
  - Paid employment and service learning opportunities allow youth to re-frame the concept of prostitution as an economic strategy
- Working across systems
  - Sexually exploited youth have connections to diverse systems many of whom lack awareness of their needs and sensitivity to their experiences

# Goals for Year 2

- Increase identification and services for sexually exploited boys and transgendered youth
- Pilot and expand the specialized school program within Seattle Public Schools Interagency Academy
- Continue to refine and articulate the service model for purpose of replication
- Develop gender specific prevention programming for boys and girls in order to decrease the next generation of demand and supply